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SCHOOL STATISTICS

LETTER FROM

HON. HENRY W. BLAIR

TO

HON THOMAS R. MARSHALL

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING A LETTER FROM ALEX SUMMERS, STATISTICIAN
OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION, STATING THE CONDITION
OF COMMON-SCHOOL EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY AS INDICATED BY THE ACTUAL
YEARLY EXPENDITURE



PRESENTED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 30, 1913.—Ordered to be printed

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SCHOOL STATISTICS.

COLORADO BUILDING,
Washington, D. C., October 30, 1913.

HON. THOMAS R. MARSHALL,
Vice President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose an original letter addressed to myself in reply to certain specific inquiries made by me of the honorable Commissioner of Education for information from the official records showing the condition of common-school education throughout the country as indicated by the actual yearly expenditure in the several States.

It will be observed that this expenditure is confined to common-school education and does not include the high schools nor any form of more advanced education. It is for reading, writing, and arithmetic and that primary mental training which is indispensable to a fair start in the race of life in any direction. It is as necessary to any real progress by the child as are the senses, the original inlets to knowledge.

The educators of the country agree that \$28 per capita is the least annual expenditure which will give the American child a good—not the best—common-school education.

Besides this is the immense sum which must be provided for the schoolhouses, training of teachers, books, etc., which correspond to the plant in all business, and common-school education is the most important business carried on in this country and will be in this world.

It will be observed that of the \$446,000,000 expended for common schools in this country over \$102,000,000 is paid out in States which expend more than \$28 per capita, leaving nearly \$344,000,000 paid out in States which expend less than \$28 per capita—the lowest admissible standard. The total of the deficiencies is \$263,000,000. To bring the deficient States up to the standard will require \$607,000,000. The total expenditure of the whole country would then be \$709,000,000 for common schools. Besides all this is the plant.

Where the need is greatest the ability to bear further taxation is the least. Bankruptcy would follow such overwhelming increase of State taxation. The evil seems to be increasing, especially in the North.

The Nation and the State live or die with the common school. Whenever necessary the Nation must help, or governments, republican in form, will perish from the earth. The primary duty to educate is upon the Nation, for in no other way can the republican form of government be preserved to itself or guaranteed to the State. In the presence of this tremendous problem, of what consequence are tariffs or wars?

The common school must be spread throughout the world as the supreme gospel of free institutions. Universal common-school education is the only institution which can make all nations fit for self-government, thus overthrowing tyranny of both soul and body in every form, and impregnably establishing the liberties of mankind.

I would highly appreciate the courtesy of the presentation of this and the commissioner's letter to the Senate and that the same be printed in the Record and referred to the appropriate committee.

I have the honor to be.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

HENRY W. BLAIR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, July 1, 1913.

HON. HENRY W. BLAIR,
Colorado Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request I am sending you a number of statistical tables relating to the State common schools.

It is difficult to select the "10 best" school systems, but to obtain a fair average per capita of expenditure based upon school population I have taken the 10 States in which the child 5 to 18 years of age receives the greatest number of days' schooling in the school year. The following States in 1911 showed an average attendance of from 101 to 107 days for every child 5 to 18 years of age: Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, Washington, and California.

These 10 States had a school population of 3,509,117 and expended in the aggregate \$96,005,239 for the common schools, or very nearly \$28 per capita of this population 5 to 18 years of age.

The inclosed table shows the common-school expenditure for each State in 1911, and in a parallel column the amount which each would have expended at the rate of \$28 per capita of school population, where a higher rate does not now exist. The third column shows the increase necessary in each State to bring it up to the \$28 per capita. Twelve States now exceed this rate.

With one exception the other statistical items mentioned in your letter will be found in the marked tables from the commissioner's annual reports sent to-day.

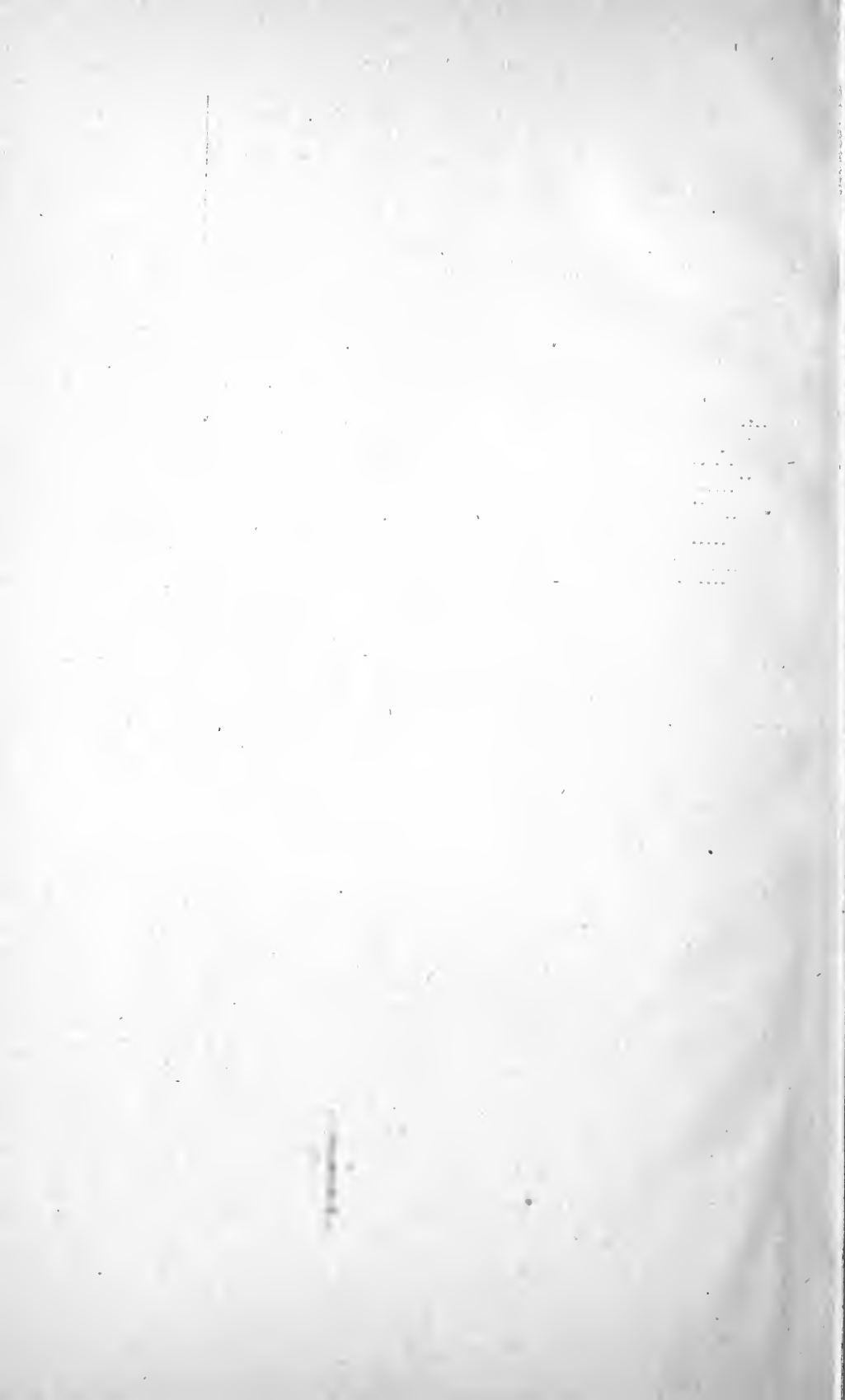
Federal appropriations made by the Sixty-first Congress for education, directly or indirectly, were summarized in the commissioner's report for 1910, pages 181 to 187. I regret that the chapter reprints are no longer in stock, but undoubtedly the volume is in your library.

Very respectfully.

ALEX SUMMERS, *Statistician.*

States.	Actual expenditure.	What the expenditure would have been at \$23 per capita, school population.	Increase.
Alabama.....	\$3,747,885	\$19,344,220	\$15,596,335
Arizona.....	1,000,628	1,470,224	469,596
Arkansas.....	3,510,132	14,120,876	10,610,744
California.....	20,070,928	13,535,928	.....
Colorado.....	5,824,200	5,443,116	.....
Connecticut.....	5,426,833	7,322,476	1,895,643
Delaware.....	604,796	1,415,848	811,052
District of Columbia.....	3,112,241	1,880,424	.....
Florida.....	1,991,379	6,270,372	4,279,193
Georgia.....	4,390,162	23,763,740	19,373,578
Idaho.....	2,797,991	2,553,992	.....
Illinois.....	30,737,991	39,543,305	8,805,317
Indiana.....	14,910,500	19,048,848	4,138,348
Iowa.....	13,561,340	13,358,088	3,766,748
Kansas.....	10,209,954	12,690,132	2,480,178
Kentucky.....	6,165,719	18,987,808	12,822,089
Louisiana.....	4,064,820	14,820,708	10,755,888
Maine.....	3,073,603	4,795,588	1,721,985
Maryland.....	4,010,289	9,609,992	5,599,703
Massachusetts.....	22,502,934	21,467,824	.....
Michigan.....	15,292,552	19,684,504	4,391,952
Minnesota.....	15,006,132	16,029,744	1,033,611
Mississippi.....	2,726,248	16,653,056	13,926,808
Missouri.....	14,328,394	24,234,616	9,906,222
Montana.....	3,162,072	2,363,816	.....
Nebraska.....	8,045,028	9,176,944	1,131,916
Nevada.....	619,268	398,440	.....
New Hampshire.....	1,693,800	2,689,652	995,852
New Jersey.....	18,076,255	17,579,800	.....
New Mexico.....	972,559	2,787,876	1,815,317
New York.....	52,328,926	59,465,448	7,136,522
North Carolina.....	3,140,697	20,198,892	17,058,195
North Dakota.....	5,184,936	4,795,392	.....
Ohio.....	28,057,151	32,048,240	3,991,089
Oklahoma.....	6,759,413	15,146,712	8,387,299
Oregon.....	5,837,676	4,329,752	.....
Pennsylvania.....	42,137,647	54,647,768	12,510,121
Rhode Island.....	2,360,109	3,606,092	1,245,983
South Carolina.....	2,168,513	14,363,776	12,195,263
South Dakota.....	3,400,038	4,699,968	1,299,930
Tennessee.....	5,083,469	18,539,500	13,456,031
Texas.....	11,841,818	35,103,292	23,261,474
Utah.....	3,576,045	3,103,940	.....
Vermont.....	1,647,579	2,330,076	682,497
Virginia.....	4,725,919	17,746,960	13,021,041
Washington.....	10,860,995	7,474,208	.....
West Virginia.....	4,522,573	10,155,068	5,632,495
Wisconsin.....	11,306,852	18,187,092	6,880,240
Wyoming.....	1,120,839	881,328	.....
United States.....	446,726,929	692,875,664	263,086,255

\$446,726,929 + \$263,086,255 = \$709,813,184.







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